

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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SETTING COURSE

National Document Outlines Germany's Future

Everywhere in the German Democratic Republic people are discussing a bulky "National Document" published on March 27th by the National Front, coalition of all parties and organisations in the Republic.

This wide-ranging document, scheduled to become the keynote for the political development of the GDR in the period ahead, sets out to answer a whole series of questions of serious concern to all Germans and to the whole world:

What is the future path of the GDR? What is the path of the West German Federal Republic? How should relations develop between the two German states? Could there be civil war in Germany? When will German reunification become possible?

Here is a summary of some of the main points made by the Document:

1. German reunification will only become possible after the rule of the monopolies and militarists has been ended in West Germany; this is a task for the West German people.

2. The German Democratic Republic will press ahead with the construction of socialism and the transition to communism, regardless of developments in West Germany.

3. The present cold war atmosphere between the two German states is unhealthy and dangerous: every attempt must be made to ensure peaceful coexistence between these states, despite all their differences.

4. Both German states should be militarily neutralised under the guarantee of the Great Powers.

Here is a condensed version of the National Document:

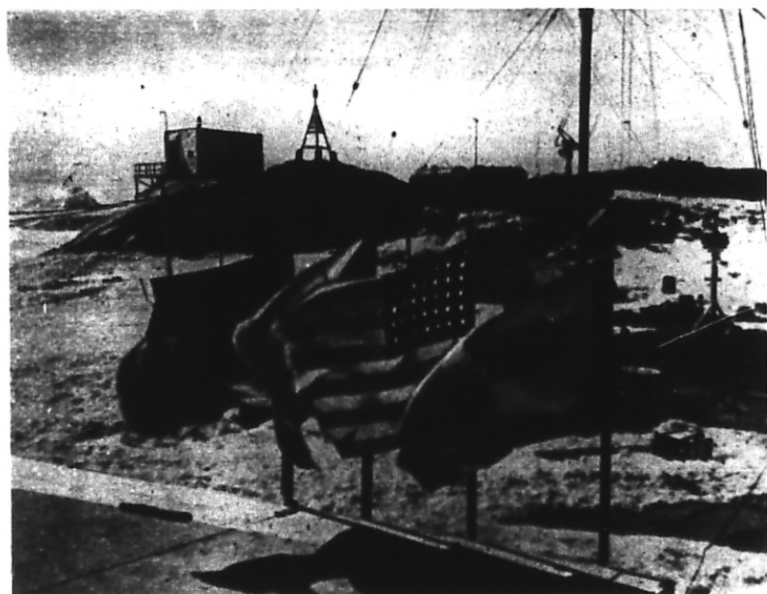
Today the situation in the German nation, split by the imperialist western powers and their helpers in West Germany, is as follows:

In the German Democratic Republic imperialism and militarism have been overcome, and the exploitation of the working people has been abolished. The people — Communists and non-Communists, Christians and atheists, united in the National Front — run the country.

In the West German Federal Republic, under the camouflage of ap-

(cont. on next page)

No Cold War at Pole



The harmless photograph above is liable to make Dr Adenauer and his merry men scream with horror, for it shows the flags of the non-existent German Democratic Republic and the United States flying peacefully side by side.

If this were to happen anywhere in Western Europe, the local West German diplomats would be frantically busy filing official protests with everyone from the US State Department to the NATO headquarters in Paris. They would be doing this, because the West German authorities apparently still believe in magic: if they ignore the existence of the German Democratic Republic loudly enough and long enough, they hope it will disappear.

But the flags in our picture are flying on the only continent where there are no West Germans — Antarctica. They are flying outside the Soviet Polar Station at Mirny, and mark the fact that scientists from the Soviet Union, the United States, Czechoslovakia and the GDR are peacefully cooperating there.

(PS. The flag of the GDR is on the left. It is a little unclear but we decided not to send the photographer back to the Pole for a better picture.

PPS. Please don't write us letters asking why the US flag has only 48 stars. We don't know, but assume that the scientists at the South Pole have not yet heard about Hawaii and Alaska reaching statehood.)

(cont. from front page)

parent democracy, all the reactionary and militarist traditions of German history have been preserved. The militarist-clerical West German Republic has become part of the NATO aggressive military pact system.

Today there are two German states on the territory of Germany, facing each other hostilely. Each of these states represents a basically different part of German tradition. In the past twelve years the German Democratic Republic has made countless proposals for understanding and for peaceful co-existence; the West German state has always replied to these offers by increasing its hate campaign, and by threatening a civil war which would plunge the whole world into a nuclear Third World War.

One thing is absolutely plain: the forces of the past will never be able to take possession of the whole of Germany. Another thing is plain too: there is no chance for a mixture of socialism and capitalism, a mixture of peace policy and war policy.

The path to a united, peaceful and democratic Germany will be open when the rule of the monopolists, imperialists and militarists has been brought to an end in West Germany. The path to this goal is difficult, and it may be long. But there is no other path and no easier path in the fight for peace and the salvation of the nation. Only determined action on the part of the peace-loving and democratic forces in West Germany will be able to shorten this path.

After this introduction, the Document gave a summary of German history between 1871 and 1945, showing that reactionary forces had repeatedly plunged Germany and Europe into misery. German democrats, Socialists and Communists had a long tradition of working and fighting for a better, peaceful, Germany.

Today, the German Democratic Republic is led by those forces of the people who ever since 1871 have proved by their actions that they stand for peace, liberty, humanity and prosperity. These forces never capitulated, and thus won for themselves the historic right to lead the German people.

Thus the German Democratic Republic is not only the sole legitimate German state in international law, since it carried out the stipulations of the Potsdam Agreement; it is also the sole legitimate German state because of the fact that it is governed by those forces which have been summoned by history to lead the German people.

After the defeat of Hitlerite Germany the anti-fascist and democratic forces hoped to carry out the inevi-

table struggle against the forces of German militarism and imperialism within the limits of one united German state. This aim was prevented by the western imperialists, who partitioned Germany in alliance with the monopolists and with the aid of the right-wing Social Democrats and trade unionists.

Since the formation of the GDR the anti-fascist and democratic forces have worked on their historic task of laying the foundations for a peaceful Germany by constructing the first workers' and peasants' state.

The document then summarised some of the great achievements in the GDR: socialised industry; land reform; higher education available to all; real equality for women; a clean break with the militarist past; and friendly relations with neighbouring states.

It is one of the greatest achievements of our socialist state that despite all difficulties, the GDR has today become one of the leading countries in Europe with regard to economic strength, living standards, and cultural development.

The GDR cannot postpone the completion of the construction of socialism until the peace-loving forces in West Germany have won their victory there. The rate of development in the GDR cannot be made dependent upon the lagging-behind of the social system in West Germany.

The German nation can only be reunited after the peace-loving forces in West Germany have overcome German imperialism and taken over control. Then the socialist GDR and an anti-fascist and democratic West Germany will be able to reunite Germany.

Germany and You

The historical background of the German question, the development of the German Democratic Republic and the present situation in Germany are discussed in a scholarly but easy-to-read booklet by Professor Heinz Kamnitzer. The pamphlet also contains 24 full-page photos of the GDR.

To obtain a free copy, please address requests to:

**German Peace Council
Berlin W 8
Taubenstrasse 1-2
German Democratic Republic**

Please indicate whether you would prefer the booklet in English or German. This free offer only applies to readers outside the German Democratic Republic.

During the period of the Kaiser's empire and the First World War there was a united Germany. During the period of Hitlerite barbarism and the Second World War there was also a united Germany. If anyone asks about reunification today then we must ask: "Reunification for what? For peace or for war? For liberty, democracy and socialism, or for capitalist exploitation and clerical militarism?"

In the GDR, socialism will be victorious, independently of the development of relations between the two German states. We have everything necessary to reach this goal. We have good workers, peasants and intellectuals. In close cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries we shall complete the construction of socialism and then proceed to lay the foundations of communist society.

This will be the great example which will help the working people of West Germany to take the right course, and themselves to take the path to socialism.

The forces which rule today in West Germany have hitherto made reunification impossible. We cannot predict when the West German population will have the strength to change the situation.

Whether we like it or not, we shall have to put up for a long period with the existence of two German states, basically different from each other, and completely independent of one another. We shall have to put up not only with their existence, but with their existence side by side, since it is impossible to change the geography of Europe.

Today these two German states face one another in hostility. This is unbearable, but unfortunately a fact.

What does this fact mean for the relations between the two German states? Should they wage war against each other? There are some madmen amongst the West German militarists who play with the idea of civil war; but there are also more sensible forces amongst the West German bourgeoisie who know well that an attack upon the GDR means an attack upon the socialist camp, an attack upon the Soviet Union, and that such an attack would be atomic suicide.

A hot war can obviously not clarify the relations between the two German states; but what is the alternative?

Are these two states condemned to confront each other like cat and dog, like deadly enemies, always on the brink of hot war? This would be

(cont. on p. 75)

Special Page for NATO Supporters

MEET YOUR CHAIRMAN

If there are any keen supporters of NATO amongst the readers of GERMAN REPORT, they should be interested in some details of the career of one of NATO's key men.

His portrait is shown on the right: he is West German General Adolf Heusinger, today Chairman of the NATO Permanent Military Committee in Washington. Our photo shows him presiding at a meeting of this committee, the NATO General Staff. From 1940 to 1944 Adolf Heusinger was Chief of the Operations Department of the Nazi army: in this capacity he planned all of Hitler's main invasions, and was responsible for the planning and execution of "anti-partisan warfare", which involved mass reprisals and shootings in all parts of Europe.

On December 12th 1961 the Soviet Union officially demanded that Heusinger should be arrested as a war criminal; the US authorities refused to accept the Soviet Note detailing Heusinger's war crimes. The West German Defence Ministry stated: "General Heusinger has a stainless past and personality".

Today, GERMAN REPORT presents new evidence against Heusinger.

The documents quoted below, never before published in English, come from an unimpeachable source—Volume VIII of the court documents prepared by the American prosecution for "Case 7", the 1948 Nuremberg Trial of a group of Nazi generals.

Daily Report, West, 29. 11. 43

III. Balkans

1. Army Group E.

... in retaliation for a bandit attack on the Tripolis-Sparta road, 100 hostages were shot at the scene of attack. In the course of searches in Corinth, numerous hostages were rounded up ...

(signed) Heusinger

Daily Report, West, 12. 12. 43

III. Balkans

1. Army Group F.

... Operation Kalavrita continued without contact with the enemy. As reprisal measure 9 villages were destroyed, 142 male inhabitants shot.

(signed) Heusinger

Daily Report, West, 8. 2. 44

III. Balkans

1. Army Group E.

... As reprisal measure for the bandit attack on a transport column north of Kalamata, 100 Communists were shot and 3 villages destroyed ...

(signed) Heusinger



West German General Adolf Heusinger in full war paint. The rows of medals on his chest start off with four (4) Iron Crosses, awarded him by the Kaiser and the Nazis, and include a special medal for 25 years service to German militarism which he received from Hitler's hands in 1940. Our medals expert was unable to say whether the rows of ribbons also include an obscure medal awarded him by the fascist Slovak puppet government during the war, and medals from South Korea and Portugal which he has been awarded since. The medal in the bottom row is the US Legion of Merit which he received from Eisenhower in 1960.

Daily Report, West, 25. 2. 44

III. Balkans

1. Army Group E.

The clean-up sweep in Andros continued without making contact with enemy hitherto. As reprisal for the attack on a transport column at Megalopolis reported yesterday, 200 hostages were shot.

(signed) Heusinger

The four reports reproduced above make up only a tiny part of the evidence of General Heusinger's complicity in Nazi war crimes. Just one other very clear example, first reported in GERMAN REPORT dated February 3rd 1961, will round out the picture of Heusinger's record.

On August 28th 1942, Soviet partisans destroyed a German-occupied railway station at Slavnoye, in German-occupied Byelorussia. On hearing the news General Heusinger telegraphed the local Nazi commander:

"The Fuehrer demands immediate reprisal for attack on Slavnoye, including sharpest terror measures. Planned measures must be reported."

The local commander telegraphed back:

"The ordered reprisal is planned as follows: A total of 100 bandit supporters and their families from the Slavnoye district, who are suspected of taking part or favouring the attack, will be shot. Their houses will be burned down. The measure will be announced and explained on the radio. All preparations have been made to carry out this measure. Your decision is awaited."

Heusinger telegraphed back laconically: "Proposed measures agreed to."

General Adolf Heusinger has never denied or attempted to deny his part in this and other slaughters. Addressing West German officers on September 27th 1958 he stated: "Let us stick to the old principles, the principles we used to have."

And today he presides over the meetings of the Permanent Military Committee of NATO in Washington.

Now turn the page for a few extracts from other war-time documents, showing the role played by Nazi criminals, not previously x-rayed in this paper, who today hold leading posts in the West German Bundeswehr:

GENERAL JOSEF SELMAYR, today head of the "Security Department" of the West German army.

**Daily Report,
Commander South-East, 17. 6. 44**

Bandits taking evasive action, fighting contact maintained. In round-up in Athens, 25 Communists shot.

(signed)

Selmayr, Colonel, General Staff

**Daily Report,
Commander South-East, 11. 7. 44**

Serbia: Local bandit activity. In Banat 40 Communists shot as reprisal for attack on re-settlement train ...

(signed)

Selmayr, Colonel, General Staff

**Daily Report,
Commander South-East, 31. 8. 44**

Crete: As a result of cleanup operation in Kissamu a total of 223 bandits or bandit helpers were shot ...

(signed)

Selmayr, Colonel, General Staff
(source: US Documents, Case 7, Vol VIII)

GENERAL KARL-WILHELM THILO, today Deputy Inspector General (second-in-command) of the Bonn army. During the Second World War Thilo served as general staff officer of the 1st Mountain Division in occupied Yugoslavia and Greece.

Divisional Orders, 3. 6. 43

The entire adult population in the divisional area is to be regarded as Communist, and to be treated accordingly. Anyone possessing arms is to be shot. Persons of military age without arms are to be arrested and expelled. All houses inhabited by Communists are to be destroyed.

(signed) Thilo

Evening Report, 13. 6. 43

Cleanup in area 830 ... and Susika. About 200 houses burnt down. Two civilians captured. Two Communists shot.

(signed) Thilo

Evening Report, 11. 7. 43

Salming Group guarding march route ... Cleanup operation to north-west in direction Tsarova. Territory and villages free of enemy. Village burned down ... 60 male civilians shot, villages of Seya and Drasova burned down.

(initialed) Thilo

Divisional Order, 13. 9. 43

From 20. 9. 43 it is ordered that for every German soldier killed or wounded by bandits or civilians, 10 Greeks from all strata of the population are to be shot. This order must be carried out consistently to produce a deterrent effect.

(signed) Thilo

(Source: US Documents, Case 7, Vol VIII)

GENERAL JOACHIM SCHWATLO-GESTERDING, today Commander of the West German territorial army.

During the nazi period he was propaganda chief with the nazi army. After the war he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for war crimes by a Soviet court. When he returned to West Germany in 1955 he was immediately integrated in the new Bundeswehr.

"The duties of a German soldier: He must be ready, everywhere and at every time, to protect with his weapons the Fuehrer, the German people and the Reich ... The soldier is bound, unconditionally, with body and soul, to the Fuehrer."

(Source: "Handbook for Officer Education" by Schwatlo-Gesterding, Berlin 1938)

Brandt Booed

When Willy Brandt, Mayor of West Berlin, visited Britain at the end of March, he was met everywhere by demonstrators carrying banners stating "No War Over Berlin".

Many West Berlin and West German newspapers took the opportunity to criticise the British people sharply for their attitude towards the remilitarised and renazified West German state. Typical of these comments was an editorial in the conservative West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel", which stated:

"The relationship between Britain and Germany is still dominated by memories, memories of bad deeds on both sides ... This is not a pleasant state of affairs, and we should be glad finally to hear more pleasant tones from the Thames. We Germans, after all, are doing all we can. Despite 're-education' we have not refused to allow our young men to become soldiers again ...

"The Germans realise, of course, what upsets the Englishman. Even those amongst the English who do not accept the over-simplified version of the guilt problem, regard Germany as the reason that they lost their empire."

The editorial was signed by Karl Silex, editor of the "Tagesspiegel". During the war years Dr Silex was one of the leading nazi propagandists. Writing in the nazi organ "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" on March 1st 1943, Dr Silex stated: "We know the hatred with which England blindly brought about the war. Today this hatred has the undertone - if we must go under then at least let the Germans go down with us."

'Free & Democratic' Duelling

The Association of (West) German Student Corporations protested on April 2nd against efforts to suppress student duelling. Student duelling, banned in the GDR but permitted in West Germany, is a primitive ritual in which young men bash each other about the face with heavy swords; the man with the most scars is more likely to succeed in later life.

The West German student body protested that a ban on such duels would be an offence against "the free democratic basic order" in West Germany. "Only a totalitarian state could even consider banning conduct which the courts have decided is not contrary to the morals of civilised peoples," the protest stated.

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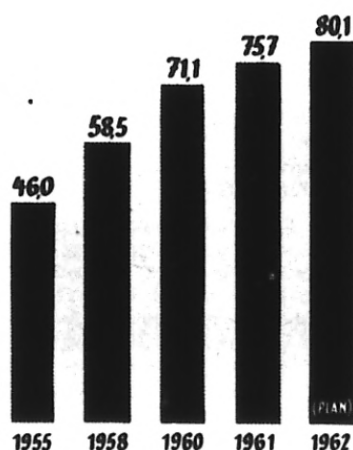
MORE INVESTMENT IN DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

For the coming year at least, the GDR will operate a modified "austerity programme" to ensure that a larger proportion of the national income is available for sorely-needed capital investment. This was the general tenor of the GDR budget and 1962 economic plan approved by the People's Chamber in Berlin on March 28th.

The "austerity programme" will not entail a cut-back in living standards, but it will mean that the standard of living will not rise so swiftly as it has in past years. One of the speakers noted: "In the past few years expenditure in the fields of education, social services and health has increased much faster than production. We now suggest that speed of increase in social consumption should not be increased at the speed we have experienced in recent years."

Introducing the 1962 Economic Plan, Karl Mewis, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, announced that during the current year industrial production should be increased 5.8%. A great part of this increase would be ear-marked for capital investment.

"The 1962 plan is a plan for the concentration of all our efforts in



Western press reports often suggest that the economy of the GDR is stagnating: this graph tells a different story. It shows the increase in gross industrial production, in thousand million marks, between 1955 and 1962.

order to strengthen the economic foundation of the GDR" Karl Mewis stated.

"There will still be difficulties in 1962, but we have considerably better

prospects of fulfilling the plan than we had in 1961.

"The key problem is that we must increase accumulation, that is to say devote a larger part of the national income to the renewal and modernisation of our productive capacity. This will mainly be achieved by using every opportunity to increase productivity.

"The need to increase accumulation will mean that for a certain period that portion of the national income available for consumer goods will only rise slowly."

Full figures on the consumer goods available under the 1962 Economic Plan, released in Berlin, show that there will be no increase this year in the quantities of meat and butter available to the public. The GDR already has the highest consumption in Europe of these two foodstuffs. There will, however, be a welcome 15% increase in supplies of fresh vegetables, shortages of which have been very noticeable. One of the biggest increases will be in the field of high-grade synthetic textiles of the types known in western countries as "Orlon" and "Terylene"; less welcome to many people will be the news that the production of miniature radios will be almost doubled.

GDR PLAN FOR DISARMAMENT

The German Democratic Republic has drafted a plan for localised disarmament in Central Europe, and particularly in the two German states. This plan, which includes clauses dealing with inspection, a subject which has otherwise been a main stumbling block in East-West arms talks, was submitted to the 18-nation Geneva Conference on March 28th.

Main points of the GDR plan are as follows:

1. An atom-free zone in Central Europe should be established, consisting in the first place of the two German states, Poland and Czechoslovakia. If possible this zone should be extended northwards to include the Scandinavian countries and Finland. All nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon carriers and launching sites should be banned in this zone, and it should be guaranteed against nuclear attack by the United Nations.

2. In addition to the atom-free zone, the two German states should agree on an arms stop, and a reduction of their forces. This should be

done in such a way that neither the Warsaw Pact nor NATO should gain any military advantage from the step.

3. Control and inspection, both with regard to nuclear weapons and conventional arms in the two German states would be entrusted to a commission composed of an equal number of representatives from the Warsaw Pact and NATO. This international commission should be aided in both German states by control committees made up of parliamentarians, trade unionists, etc.

Political commentators in Berlin pointed out that the GDR proposals for the disarmament of Germany under strict international control had many points of resemblance with plans launched by important American politicians in the past. On October 3rd 1946, US Secretary of State James Byrnes stated:

"The United States proposes that all German armed forces shall be (kept) demobilised... This plan provides for the complete and continued demilitarisation, and a continuing system of quadripartite inspection

and control." (State Department Publication 2670)

On May 3rd 1956, George Kennan, US Diplomat and foreign affairs adviser said: "American policy should be aimed... at the earliest possible establishment of that country as a neutral zone that can blunt the edge of military bipolarity in Europe and help, eventually, to mitigate the intensity of conflict between East and West."

Eisler Heads Radio

Professor Gerhart Eisler was appointed Chairman of the GDR Radio Committee at the end of March; for many years he had been Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

Professor Eisler made world headlines in 1949 when, after years of trying to return to post-war Germany from his American exile, he finally escaped on the Polish ship "Batory". He was taken off the ship in Southampton, but British courts refused to return him to the American authorities who wanted to jail him.

An Australian Sees Berlin

By Doug Hall

A young Australian printer recently visited the two halves of Berlin. Here are his un-edited impressions:

The night before my first visit to East Berlin in 1960 I stayed at a moderate-priced hotel in West Berlin. During dinner I met a knowledgeable middle-aged English lady who was lavish in her praise of the achievements of West Berlin. Discussing East Berlin she said: "It's just a 'ghost city' but you must go through the Brandenburg Gate to see the ruins. Only one street has been rebuilt and even that is about 100 years behind the times in architecture."

My first day in East Berlin was enough to persuade me that the comments of the previous night were not just extremely inaccurate; they were completely untrue.

On that occasion in 1960 and again early in 1962 I visited Berlin for nine or ten days, dividing the time about equally between east and west.

The business area of West Berlin with its grand display of goods and glittering lights by night compares favourably with the other great cities of Europe. In comparison, the business sections of East Berlin have not been rebuilt on nearly the same scale and there are still many evidences of the heavy bombing during the war.

However, only the most superficial observer would judge by commercial buildings alone. Even in this respect whole areas are now being systematically cleared and rebuilt, though it appears that it will still be some time before East Berlin is completely rebuilt.

In the construction of modern apartment blocks, on the other hand, much has been accomplished and many more buildings are under construction. The plans for the future are even more impressive.

One by-product of the new wall in Berlin is that there are now several formalities involved in crossing over to the East. This takes a little time, but once in East Berlin you are free to go anywhere you please. I found the best way to see things was to stroll around on foot.

In the famous street Unter den Linden the German State Opera House has been re-erected in its original style after being destroyed dur-

ing the war and is now quite grand at night when lighted up, particularly as I saw it with about an inch of snow on the ground.

One thing that interested me especially was visiting shopping areas, comparing the prices of goods, and watching the people buy. There is certainly no shortage of food although I noticed a lack of variety in certain goods. Quite a number of the stores are on a self-service basis and operate just as efficiently and well as anywhere else.

As far as food prices are concerned, the items vary. Bread rolls are 5 pfennigs in the east and 8 pfennigs in the west and bread is generally considerably cheaper. Other things such as eggs and butter are more expensive. Fresh vegetables and fruit are apparently not so plentiful but potatoes are cheaper than in the west.

Clothing and textiles, particularly in quality goods, are expensive. Nevertheless one evening I went to the State Opera House to see "La Traviata". Not having much ready cash I purchased a fairly inexpensive seat in the balcony, but I noticed that even the people in these seats were very well and tastefully dressed.

Postal rates are considerably less. An airmail letter from East Germany to Australia costs 85 pfennigs, while from West Berlin (or West Germany) the same letter costs 140 pfennigs (1.40 marks). Normal postcards cost 15 pfennigs as against 20 pfennigs. Rates to other countries are also lower. Naturally I posted all my mail in East Berlin.

Public transport is cheaper, the comparison usually being 20 pfennigs in East Berlin and 35 in West Berlin.

All manner of goods are displayed in the East Berlin shops — from stamp collections and gramophone records to furniture and motor cars. There is a longish waiting list for some luxury goods, however. Photographic equipment is generally of the highest quality and relatively modest in price.

There are plenty of restaurants in East Berlin. Some of the more expensive combine high-class service with quality food and liquor. The greater number, however, cater for the average person and meals and drinks may be obtained at a modest price.

As far as I could judge business was buoyant with a strong demand

for goods. The shoppers appeared to have plenty of money and did not hesitate because of the price.

No account of a visit to Berlin would be complete without a mention of the wall, the state frontier between the GDR and West Berlin. After the stories I had read in the British newspapers comparing it to the Great Wall of China I had visions of seeing a rather massive structure. Perhaps in places it is like that but I was not able to find them. The portions I saw (and I did walk some distance) were five or six feet high with barbed wire on the top. It is rather well guarded and one cannot get closer than about 50 feet. I tried to take a photo of it from East Berlin but two policemen came dashing over and indicated that I could photograph anything in the city but not the wall.

The wall is apparently not very popular in either East or West Berlin as many people have relatives in the other section of the city. However it became an economic necessity as far as East Germany was concerned and in my opinion it will remain for a long time to come.

What of the people of East Berlin? After work the streets and public transport are full of people making their way home. Although I looked closely I could not detect any difference from the great mass of workers one may see in any large city.

On one occasion I paused near 150-year-old Humboldt University and watched the students coming and going. They were the same as students anywhere, a happy crowd, including among their numbers many who were obviously from other lands.

Whenever I had reason to enquire the way I found people helpful and friendly. On several occasions I asked the way to Stalin Allee. I was directed and then informed with a friendly smile that it was no longer called Stalin Allee but Karl Marx Allee.

From busy Alexanderplatz I walked the streets in many directions. I visited places with liberty and confidence. I bought goods in the shops, ate and drank in restaurants and bars, and took photographs at will (except for the wall). I met and liked the people. These are my impressions — I believe true impressions — of East Berlin.

(cont. from p. 70)

very dangerous indeed for the German people and for peace in Europe.

We want neither a hot war nor a lasting cold war between the two German states; we do not desire traditional enmity between these two states. Since, however, they will have to exist side by side, possibly for a long period, these two states will have to learn to get along peacefully together. They will have to speak with each other factually, adjust together problems which affect both of them, and possibly develop a somewhat closer degree of co-operation than the minimum which is usual between neighbours.

Good neighbourliness is, however, obviously impossible as long as one of the neighbours, in this case the German Federal Republic, is always trying to set fire to the house of the other neighbour, the German Democratic Republic. It is obvious that the GDR will use all necessary means in order to prevent this happening.

We believe that despite the differences of social order and philosophy the two German states can achieve peaceful and sensible coexistence. In the period of transition between capitalism and socialism states with different social systems are having to coexist in all parts of the world; and such peaceful coexistence must be possible between the two German states.

This peaceful coexistence is not simply a provisional and uncertain sort of armistice; it is not a state of affairs in which the guns are simply silent. Peaceful coexistence would mean normal economic, cultural and political relations between the two German states, on the basis of equality and respect for each other's rights.

The most certain and painless way to solve the national problem would be the conclusion of a peace treaty with a settlement of the West Berlin problem, and the formation of a confederation of the two German states.

We believe that the interests of the German people would best be met by the military neutralisation of the two German states, guaranteed by the Great Powers. We stand by our previous proposal that both German states should disarm completely.

The Document then sketched in more detail the proposal for a Confederation, which should consist of the two German states and a demilitarised and neutral Free City of West Berlin. The Confederation could settle technical questions of trade, finance, transport and so on.

When the two German states work together in a Confederation, then the complete senselessness of the presence of foreign troops upon German

soil would become clear. If the West German Federal Republic were to be freed from the shackles of NATO, then the GDR would be ready to abandon membership in the Warsaw Pact.

Pending the establishment of a Confederation, the Document stated, the two German states should strive to achieve at least a minimum of correct relations; this would bridge over the period until it becomes possible to establish a Confederation.

We appeal to the people and the governments of the NATO states to

abandon the policy of supporting the revanché politicians of Bonn, and the Hitlerite generals. What is at stake is not only the existence of the German people, but also the existence of the peoples of the NATO states. The West German revanchists know no scruples; anyone who trusts them will one day bitterly regret this decision.

Never again shall war be waged on German soil! Never again shall Germany be the starting point of a war! Never again shall Germans make other peoples suffer!

Lippmann Sponsors West Berlin Neutralisation

Walter Lippmann, America's most respected political commentator, has come out in favour of the creation of a special neutralised status for the city of West Berlin, very similar to that proposed for the past three years by the GDR and the Soviet Union.

Writing in the "New York Herald Tribune" on April 3rd, Lippmann stated that since the closing of the frontier between the two halves of Berlin, West Berlin has "ceased to be an escape hatch, it has ceased to be a show window, and has become a much less efficient place for intelligence work and political operations.

"The net result is that for the time being the status quo in West Berlin is one that both sides can live with. But not forever, and almost certainly not for very long. West Berlin remains, as General Eisenhower once called it, 'abnormal'...

"West Berlin has no settled and clearly defined juridical basis. The best proof of this is that the West Germans and the people of West Berlin require constant public assurance that we are still standing with them... But though this kind of thing can go on for a while, it cannot go on for ever. We have only one Vice-President to send to Berlin and he has been there. The President has no more brothers, and that leaves him with three brothers-in-law and a wife. Gen. Clay cannot be asked to spend the rest of his life in West Berlin.

"Sooner or later, the freedom of West Berlin will have to be guaranteed in an international covenant which makes it an international city under the specific protection of the great powers, the general protection of the NATO and the Warsaw alliance, and of the United Nations."

International Olympic Committee Condemns NATO Role in Sport

The International Olympic Committee, top body in the international sport field, passed a resolution on March 28th implicitly condemning recent NATO interference with sport.

The Committee expressed its deep regret that "one team" had been excluded from the recent World Ski Championships in Chamonix, France, and the World Ice Hockey Championships in Colorado Springs, USA. The one team alluded to was the team of the GDR, which was refused visas as the result of a NATO ruling, imposed under strong pressure from West Germany.

The Olympic Committee's resolution stated: "We take our stand against any use of sport as a political weapon, and will not award the

Olympic Games to any country which cannot guarantee free access for teams from all countries. We suggest that all international sports associations should take similar steps."

If this recommendation is accepted, no world championships will be held in NATO countries until these countries ignore West German pressure and admit GDR teams.

West German and West Berlin papers excelled themselves in vicious attacks on the Olympic Committee. The West Berlin "Tagesspiegel" stated on March 30th that the new ruling "exceeded all bearable limits". The suggestions made were "grotesque"; and Avery Brundage, American President of the International Olympic Committee, had been "struck with blindness".

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Anyone who has read this issue of GERMAN REPORT from the front, instead of starting on this page, will have discovered that it assays rather high in heavyweight material like National Documents, disarmament plans, and weighty analyses by pundit Lippmann. We try to keep the paper lively, but sometimes we are simply overwhelmed by the heavy stuff which must go in if readers are to get a fair picture of problems and their solution.

And despite all our efforts, we have not yet discovered a way of making the sometimes dull prose of politicians sparkle like gems. While we were making up the paper ready for press, we played for a few minutes with the idea of putting catchy, though perhaps misleading, headlines on some of the heavy stories. "Jackie Boosts Brandt" offered itself as an obvious alternative to the sober title on Walter Lippmann's measured prose; and instead of the informative but pedestrian headline "GDR Disarmament Proposals" we fleetingly considered the alternative "GDR Half-Inches Yank Scheme". (For readers outside Britain we should explain that "to half-inch" is Cockney rhyming slang for "pinch" or "purlin".)

Regretfully we abandoned these and other ideas, and readers will just have to put up with headlines which perhaps do not catch the eye, but do have more than a passing connection with the story underneath.

Swastika Echoes

GERMAN REPORT's biggest single-shot success still continues to echo round the world. I am referring of course to the swastika-smeared map which we published on our front page on January 19th this year. Each swastika marked a country where West Germany is today represented by an ambassador who belonged to the Nazi Party.

This map has now been reproduced in newspapers large and small in at least 20 countries, according to the latest count, and we are glad finally to be able to include West Germany among the customers. On March 21st, West Germany's biggest news magazine, "Der Spiegel" picked up the map, noting that to date the West German authorities had made no attempt to dispute the facts.

This in turn inspired the influential Christian Democratic weekly "Christ und Welt" to get out its poison pen.

On March 23rd, "Christ und Welt" had the following to say:

"The foreign propagandists of the Zone (GDR, ed.) send out regularly to English-speaking countries a little paper which calls itself 'Democratic German Report'. It consists mainly of hate articles against the Federal Republic. This obscure and clumsy propaganda sheet recently published a map which attempted to prove that the diplomatic missions of the Federal Republic were a sort of Nazi organisation... This map was reprinted this week by 'Der Spiegel', with a commentary which makes it appear the most normal thing in the world to disseminate Communist propaganda material in the Federal Republic. Anyone who knows 'Democratic German Report' knows that it is an organ of the Communist civil war in Germany."

Gruesome Sight

How right "Christ und Welt" is! I am writing this with a sharpened knife between my teeth, while my assistants polish their tommy-guns and play off-handedly with sticks of dynamite.

But to be serious, there are several interesting points to make about this article in "Christ und Welt". First and foremost, you should note that the newspaper makes no attempt to deny or to excuse the facts given by GERMAN REPORT about the very high percentage of old Nazi Party members who are now West German ambassadors; instead of answering our facts, it foams slightly at the mouth, and then goes on to make a McCarthy-style attack on "Der Spiegel" for reprinting the map.

Secondly, it may be worth recalling the background of Dr Gisela Wirsing, the editor of "Christ und Welt". He was an SS captain during the Nazi period, and made quite a career for himself as a Nazi propagandist. In the last issue of GERMAN REPORT we gave some samples of his old writings.

We know we must be on the right lines when a man like this calls us names.

Money for Musicals

The budget debate in the People's Chamber of the GDR on March 28th brought to light some interesting details on the extent to which theatres, TV, and other entertainments

are subsidised by the state.

Willy Rumpf, Finance Minister, disclosed that the licence fee paid for TV (about £2 annually) only covers about one quarter of the cost of the service given. In some theatres the gap between the price of the tickets and the cost of the performance is even greater. It does seem a little odd, for instance, that the people in the cheapest seats at the Metropol Theatre in East Berlin, who only pay 2 marks for their tickets, should be receiving a state subsidy of 13 marks to see the light musical comedies put on there.

Theatres and operas in both parts of Germany have always been subsidised from the state or city budget, and some sort of subsidy will be continued; but the Minister of Finance stated quite bluntly that subsidies on this scale could not be kept up at a time when the GDR was making economies in many fields in order to increase the rate of capital investment.

Details of the new arrangement have not yet been worked out, but obviously the price of theatre tickets and the price of TV licences are going to go up. The point is, of course, that theatre prices have been maintained here at an artificially low level, at pre-war prices, in fact, while average earnings have soared. Today average take-home pay is about two-and-a-half times what it was before the war, and this increase in money income has not been accompanied by increases in rents, fares and prices for basic consumer goods as it has in all capitalist countries.

REC'D MAY 19 1962

Grumbles

I am sure there is going to be a lot of grumbling here if theatre prices go up, particularly since people are just not used to prices going up in any field; but it seems to be a better way of tackling the problem than putting up the prices of essential services.

Incidentally, while I am talking about the budget, I would like to mention that state expenditures for social services, education, culture and science now make up well over one third of the total budget, and these expenditures have risen over the past three years twice as fast as the national income. The sum, per head of the population, is today just about twice as high as in West Germany.